

First of Three Public Hearings Held on Voting System Reform

by Thomas X. White

The first of three scheduled public hearings on proposed changes to the city's process for the election of councilmembers was held on Saturday, February 7 in the multi-purpose room of the Greenbelt Community Center. About 30 or more Greenbelt residents attended, as well as all members of council, the city manager and the assistant city manager.

Also participating in the hearing were the city's legal counsel Robert Manzi and another attorney Stephen Silvestri of the Miles & Stockbridge law firm. This firm had been retained by the city specifically for the voting reform issues that have been on the council agenda since February 2008. Those wishing to speak at the hearing were required to sign a speakers' list available at the meeting room entrance.

Mayor Judith Davis, who opened the hearing at approximately 10:10 a.m., provided a brief background statement, listed the ground rules to be followed and, because there was a later event planned for the meeting room, indicated that time allotted for the speakers might have to be limited to end the hearing by

noon. With only 12 persons opting to address council, that turned out not to be a problem.

Other than the Statement on Voting System Reform that had been issued on January 26, the only handout available at the hearing was a city analysis of registered voter turnout percentages by precinct for the last four council elections (2001 through 2007) and the voter turnout for those same precincts for the 2002 state, 2004 presidential and the 2008 presidential primary elections. That analysis clearly showed a significant disparity between the low (2.0-3.8%) range of turnouts for the four city council races in Springhill Lake precinct 8 contrasted with larger ranges (27-59.1%) for the three state and/or federal elections at that same precinct.

The Greenbriar (precinct 13) analysis showed larger turn-outs but still quite low for the council elections with percentage ranges of 12-17.1 percent compared with 47-71 percent for the state and federal elections at that precinct.

Percentage rates for turnout in the two center city precincts, 3 and 6, were also eclipsed by the state and federal results, although

their ranges of 28-35.3 percent were more in line with the numbers achieved by precincts 8 and 13 in the compared state and federal elections. In all elections since 2001, Springhill Lake precinct 8 percentages were always the lowest.

Summary of Issues

Following her brief opening statement, Davis introduced Sylvestri to provide a summary of the issues faced by council and the analysis that has been undertaken over the past year by council, himself and Manzi, as well as by an expert in elections and voter pattern analysis that had been engaged by his firm.

While he would not identify the expert, Sylvestri characterized the expert's background as being a professor of political science, one who was familiar with a broad range of voting systems and who has a balanced view, representing both sides of the issue in legal cases.

Sylvestri stressed that that balance was important to the city in this instance and that the letter council had received from the National Association for the

See **HEARING**, page 6

Council Meets Empirian Village Officials in Stakeholder Forum

by James Giese

After several aborted attempts, the Greenbelt City Council met with management representatives of the Empirian Village Apartment Homes on February 4. Representing the new owners of the former Springhill Lake apartment complex were Sharon Thames, vice president of operations and general manager; Sandra Christian, director of operations; and Don Allen, director of service operations together with Michael Arrington of Capital Legislative Solutions, LLC.

During this council stakeholder meeting with a major property owner within Greenbelt, discussions ranged from what has been done to correct problems of the past to plans for the future and ways that the city and Empirian might work together. Time was also allowed for approximately 15 residents present to raise questions and express concerns. All city council members attended, as well as city staff members.

Mayor Judith Davis began the discussion by asking what was being done to fix up deficiencies that the company had inherited from the former owners, AIMCO. Thames responded that they have been working hard to make things better. She noted that

Allen, responsible for building maintenance, has over 15 years experience.

In July when Empirian became the owner, there were over 1,000 violations, she said. That number was now down to seven for the 2,900 unit apartment complex. A resident counselor has been employed, she said, to help make it possible for residents who have difficulty in obtaining credit to reside there.

Allen noted that he is at the project every day overseeing operations, whereas his predecessor was there only three days a week.

Infrastructure

Looking down the road, management plans to improve the infrastructure by upgrading the heating, ventilating and air conditioning (HVAC) systems. This will enable residents to set their own thermostats for heating and cooling and not be subject to freezing or roasting on those days before and after each semi-annual conversion from heat to AC. Since every unit will be sub-metered as well, residents will then have to pay their own electric bills.

Resident Center

The company also plans to

create a resident center with a centralized laundry facility, a Wi-fi cafe and an exercise facility. Other plans are to upgrade the building exteriors and paint the hallways to "give the building a 21st century look," according to Thames.

Councilmember Rodney Roberts urged management instead to install washer/dryers in each unit; something he felt would be a major improvement.

Allen said the existing plumbing system could not handle the load of multiple washers going at the same time.

By relocating the laundry facilities to a central point, the only access to buildings would be to the individual apartments. There would no longer be any common facilities in buildings as resident storage spaces had also been eliminated at the request of the fire marshal.

Davis noted that residents had expressed concern about their security because of the laundry rooms. However, one resident was concerned that a centralized facility would make it easier to spread any bed bug infestation.

Jim Sterling, the city's assistant

See **FORUM**, page 4

City's FY09 on Solid Footing, Challenges for Coming Years

by Megan Gustafson

The budget for Fiscal Year 2010 is expected to present some challenges for the City of Greenbelt as the economic crisis trickles down from national, state and county government, according to City Manager Michael McLaughlin's presentation to the City Council on Monday.

Midway through Fiscal Year 2009, the city is on "solid footing," McLaughlin said.

As a whole, he said, the cities and towns of Maryland have felt less of an impact from the economic turmoil thus far than other hard-hit state and county governments, which he attributed in part to a reliance on strong property tax revenues.

This fiscal year "started positively," McLaughlin reported, but is starting to show some weaknesses, in the form of a \$400,000 commercial property tax abatement, less than expected proceeds from income tax and the combination effect of reduced gas tax and gasoline usage.

The city compensated for this

by not filling several positions and looking for other places to save money, he said, and as a result, the city is expected to end FY09 either on budget or having to take only a limited amount from the fund balance.

The good news for the upcoming FY10 budget is that property assessments continue to be strong, McLaughlin said.

However, Greenbelt is on schedule to be reassessed this year – at or near the low point of the real estate market – and those results will set the assessed value for the next three fiscal years, (beginning with Fiscal Year 2011) which could present "real fiscal constraints for the coming years," he said.

And there is more budgetary bad news, McLaughlin reported: Any existing budget weaknesses are expected to continue, and state and county governments are expected to pass along their economic pain

See **BUDGET**, page 8

Stimulus Bill Amendment Could Cut City Projects

Air at the Greenbelt City Council meeting Monday, February 9 was suffused with the current economic climate. Though council approved a number of staff recommendations, the substantial part of the meeting centered around City Manager Michael McLaughlin's briefing on the Fiscal Year 2010 Budget (see separate story). Concerns about a proposed amendment to the federal stimulus package legislation, state legislation and purchasing new furniture for the new Public Works facility were also on the council agenda.

Stimulus Package

In two added agenda items council addressed the proposed federal stimulus package making its way through Congress.

Councilmember Leta Mach was concerned that Oklahoma Senator Tom Coburn's amendment to the package prohibiting money to be spent "on casinos, zoos, golf courses, swimming pools, parks, museums, theaters or highway beautification proj-

ects" would eliminate three of Greenbelt's six "shovel ready" projects, including renovations of the Old Greenbelt Theatre. "The first stimulus package built it, with the WPA," Mach said. "And it is ironic that the second won't renovate it."

Council unanimously voted to send a letter stressing this concern with Coburn's proposed amendment, while agreeing that it is important to stress that council does not support spending stimulus money on gambling.

Also addressing the federal recovery plan, Councilmember Rodney Roberts proposed that council urge Maryland's members of Congress to think more strategically about the second half of the stimulus package so that it's not "just about how quick we can build the ICC." Council unanimously assented to such a letter as well.

Council also voted to support several bills in the state House

See **STIMULUS**, page 2

What Goes On

Monday, February 16 – City and Greenbelt Homes Offices Closed in Observance of the President's Day Holiday.

Wednesday, February 18

7:30 p.m., Advisory Planning Board Meeting, Community Center Room 114. (Discussion of Citywide Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan)

7:30 p.m., Park and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting, Community Center

8 p.m., Council Worksession with GATE, Community Center, GATE Studio

Letters to the Editor

City Projects Should Stress Energy Crisis

I'm a Greenbelt (GHI) resident and I read the Greenbelt News Review's cover article titled "Rep. Steny Hoyer Meets Mayors to Discuss Funding Local Projects" (Feb. 5, 2009, issue). Page 6 of the paper contains a list of the Greenbelt projects submitted to the state for funding consideration using the stimulus package money. I'm surprised and disappointed to see that no energy-related projects are included.

Given the serious challenges confronted by every person in Greenbelt on rising energy costs, Obama's aggressive goals to weatherize all federal buildings and one million homes a year and to double renewable energy generation in three years and Maryland's plan of reducing energy consumption by 15 percent by 2015, I believe the city government should put energy reform as the top priority of funding requests.

To keep in line with federal and state initiatives, the city government can create jobs by:

- * undertaking weatherization projects for public buildings
- * offering assistance (both technical and financial) to residents to add additional insulation and acquire energy-efficient windows and appliances
- * lowering the city carbon footprint by using renewable energy generated locally (wind/solar/geothermal)
- * educating residents about alternative energy equipment such as wood/pellet/corn burning stoves, geothermal pumps, solar panels, wind turbines
- * establishing an installation and maintenance program for alternative heating/cooling equipment such as firewood/pellet delivery, building a corn silo, regular maintenance and inspection of geothermal pumps/solar panels/wind turbines.

Since the federal and state governments are both planning to invest in energy solutions, the city government can potentially receive free help. Some of the above ideas can create long-term jobs (such as the maintenance program), rather than contract projects listed in the newspaper that are both short-term and contract-based.

The energy problem we face today is not only of historic proportions but at a critical stage where if we don't act on it now to lessen and slow down the problem, the damage and de-

struction already committed may have serious and irreversible effects for many generations to come.

The benefits of finding solutions for the energy crisis can be immediate as well as long lasting:

- * lowering of energy bills for residents and city government
- * lowering carbon footprint of the Greenbelt area
- * lowering energy consumption and alleviating pollution caused by coal-burning plants to generate the needed energy
- * investing and building relationships with local companies that offer alternative energy
- * doing our part to slow down the manmade effect on climate change.

The energy problem in my mind definitely takes higher priority and has a broader impact than some projects listed for funding consideration and I certainly hope that the city government will take some steps to address this serious issue.

Lei Zong

BUDGET continued from page 1

with local governments.

To prepare for this, McLaughlin said he's directed the city's departments to draft their budgets to provide for existing services. And, the FY 2010 budget is going to be used to prepare for upcoming years in looking for savings and reducing costs, he said.

Expressing cautious optimism, McLaughlin said the silver lining amid the difficult economic news is that, "we've been here before," adding that, "clearly, it will be hard work but I think we know how to do it."

Mayor Judith Davis echoed the sentiment at the end of the briefing and said "all have to be very aware of the situation and not ask for a rainbow of services when this is just not the time to do this."

STIMULUS continued from page 1

and Senate including House Bill 130 which addresses the removal of illegal highway signs; House Bill 248 which would establish a "task force to study required deposits on returnable beverage containers in the state" and Senate Bill 277 which would allow "statewide authorization of speed cameras." Mayor Judith Davis stressed that this last bill would allow municipalities to collect fees from the use of speed cameras.

Office Furniture

Council also voted to approve a number of staff recommendations. The \$30,000 for the purchase of office furniture for the new Public Works facility was the only recommendation that met some resistance.

The discussion centered on a sample of the particle board that was passed around for council's approval. Both Councilmembers Edward Putens and Rodney Roberts disapproved of particle board, citing both its poor quality and the environmental drawbacks of the glue involved in the process. "It's junk," Roberts said.

"Once you spill coffee on it," Putens said, "it's done. Next time you come in you see the crumbs from the side of your desk lying all over the floor."

Council agreed to purchase the stronger metal-sided desks for supervisors as well as other furniture. Public Works agreed to look for high-quality materials at a comparable price for the administrative desks.

Valentine Concert At Publick Playhouse

Celebrate romance at "Around the World with Love," a Valentine concert at the Publick Playhouse on Saturday, February 14 at 8 p.m. by the Prince George's Choral Society. The program features songs from favorite Broadway shows and will be followed by a reception with the chorus and decadent desserts.

The Publick Playhouse is located at 5445 Landover Road in Cheverly.

Grin Belt

"I'm gonna miss those peanut butter treats this Valentine's Day."

Greenbelt Nursery School

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Saturday, February 21, 10 am - 1 pm

Classes for children ages 2, 3, and 4

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DEADLINES: Letters, Articles and ads—10 p.m. Tuesday. Materials for publication may be mailed to address above, deposited in our box in the Co-op grocery store (by 7 p.m. Tuesday) or brought to our office in the Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, during office hours. Mail subscriptions—\$35/year.

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 8 - 10 p.m.

OLD GREENBELT THEATRE

WEEK OF Feb. 13

The Reader (R)

Friday

*5, 7:35, 9:55

Saturday

*2:30, *5, 7:35, 9:55

Sunday and Monday

*2:30, *5, 7:35

Tuesday-Thursday

*5, 7:30

*These shows at \$6.00

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www.pandgtheatres.com

Greenbelt Post 136

Featuring


Charles "Big Daddy" Stallings

Who is he? He knows the essence of the Blues. Born in Columbia, S.C. and raised on a farm in Hobbsville, N.C. with ten brothers and sisters he lived the Blues everyday. Music became his escape and the first song he learned to play was "Big Boss Man" by Jimmy Reed. After migrating to Baltimore, Md. "Big Daddy" continued to develop as a musician performing in local R&B and Jazz bands all the while dreaming of recording his own Blues project.

Saturday – February 28

starting at 9:00 p.m.


no cover



Greenbelt Post 136

6900 Greenbelt Rd.

Greenbelt, MD 20770



Community Events



Louisa Ellison, age 6, of University Park, sings at the January 18 kid's open microphone session at the New Deal Café.

Open Microphone For Kids at Café

There will be a Kids' Open Microphone session at the New Deal Café on Sunday, February 15 from 1 to 3 p.m. Children aged 17 and under are encouraged to perform for up to five minutes playing a musical instrument, singing, dancing or reciting a poem. For more information call Anne Gardner at 301-220-1721 or email annegrdrn@yahoo.com.

GHI Notes

Scheduled Meetings:
Monday, February 16, Office Closed for Presidents Day
Wednesday, February 18, 6:45 p.m., Investment Committee Meeting – Board Room
7 p.m., Woodlands Committee Meeting – GHI Lobby
7:30 p.m., Finance Committee Meeting – Board Room
Friday, February 20, Office Closed
Monday, February 23, 6:45 p.m., Communication Committee Meeting – GHI Lobby
7:15 p.m., Pre-purchase Orientation – Board Room
Wednesday, February 25, 7 p.m., Buildings Committee Meeting – Board Room
7:30 p.m., Companion Animal Committee – GHI Lobby
Thursday, February 26, 7:30 p.m., Board Meeting – Board Room
Committee and board meetings are open; members are encouraged to attend.

GMS Science Projects Displayed

Parents are invited to admire the Greenbelt Middle School science projects. Greenbelt Middle School has been chosen to participate in this year's Science Bowl. The science projects will be displayed on February 20 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the school.

More Community Events
can be found on
pages 2, 5 and 10.

February Café Art Reception Feb. 15

The New Deal Café will host an art reception Sunday, February 15 from 7 to 9 p.m. for the two shows hanging in the café. All are welcome to come to the free reception to view the shows, meet the artists and enjoy hors d'oeuvres and music. People have enjoyed the art displayed in the front room of the café by Bright Side Pictures. The works are by artists Gary Jimerfield, Rob Grant and Scott Grant. The reception will be an opportunity to meet them and hear their process of creation, the future of their work and stories behind each piece. These experienced artists have worked in a variety of fields including video, photography, model set design, painting and computer abstracts. Their work has been shown nationally in galleries and museums from Florida to California.



Babington

Walker Babington's startling portraits in the Café back room have also received many positive reactions. Babington's show, entitled "Torch-raiture," uses found objects, such as wood panels and shutters, as canvases and fire (pyrography) as medium. Babington's description of his journey from idea to finished work is compelling. People will enjoy talking to him about his hauntingly beautiful images and the use of magnifying lenses and sunshine. This event is produced by the New Deal Café and is sponsored by the Friends of New Deal Cafe (FONDCA) with a supporting grant from the Greenbelt Community Foundation.

Spaghetti Dinner

Feb.14, 5-7 p.m.
Mowatt Methodist Church
40 Ridge Rd, Greenbelt



\$8 Adults
\$6 Children 5-12 years
Under 4 free

Pies for Sale

At the Library Storytimes

A librarian will read age-appropriate stories.
Tuesday, February 17, 10:30 a.m., Cuddletime for newborns to 17 months old with caregiver, limit 15 babies.
Wednesday, February 18, 10:30 and 11 a.m., Toddlertime for ages 18 to 35 months with caregiver, limit 15 children for each group.
Thursday, February 19, 10:30 a.m., Drop-in Storytime for ages 3 to 5 years, limit 20 children.
Caregivers are asked to pick up a free ticket at the Children's Desk.

Book Discussion

Wednesday, February 18, 7 p.m., adult book discussion of Linda A. Fairstein's "Killer Heat."

Menu for Senior Nutrition Program

The Senior Nutrition "Food and Friendship" program provides lunches for seniors Monday through Friday at the Community Center beginning at noon. Meals need to be reserved by 11 a.m. two days ahead. Call 301-397-2208, ext. 4215.
All meals include bread and margarine, coffee or tea and skim milk. Menus for February 16 through 20 include:
Monday – Presidents' Day holiday – All sites closed.
Tuesday – Orange juice, meatballs with Swedish gravy, egg noodles, broccoli, mandarin oranges.
Wednesday – Minestrone soup, turkey cutlet with gravy, cornbread stuffing, spinach, spiced apples.
Thursday – Apple juice, barbecued beef on a bun, broccoli slaw, baked beans, fruit sherbet.
Friday – Orange juice, curried chicken, wild rice, Japanese-style vegetables, strawberry parfait.

Explorations Shows Jefferson Movie

Explorations Unlimited will show the Ken Burns documentary "Thomas Jefferson" on Friday, February 20 at 1 p.m. The film is approximately three hours long. Revered as the author of the Declaration of Independence, the most sacred document in American history, yet condemned as a lifelong owner of slaves, Jefferson remains the enigma that is America. This documentary follows a young Thomas Jefferson from the Virginia wilderness through his transformation into the country's most articulate voice for human liberty. Torn between serene family life at Monticello and his passion for politics, Jefferson suffers heart-rending personal loss, even as he gives voice to a new era of democratic government. Jefferson strives to preserve the new, fragile American government and helps to create the first political party through his bitter struggles with the Federalists. As third President of the United States, he doubled the size of the country with the Louisiana Purchase but then faced controversy and scandal, finally retiring to his beloved Monticello. By the end of his remarkable life, he had advanced the cause of religious, political and intellectual freedom everywhere and had changed the course of human events. Explorations Unlimited is held every Friday at 1 p.m. at the Greenbelt Community Center in the Senior Lounge, Room 111. Everyone is welcome to attend and questions are encouraged. Call 301-397-2208 for more information.

Washington's Birthday Marathon Is Sunday

The 48th running of the annual Washington's Birthday Marathon in Greenbelt will begin on Northway at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, February 15. There is also a three-person relay. The finish line is on the trail near the intersection of Northway and Crescent. Race Day registration will begin at the Youth Center at 9 a.m. There is a fee. For more information visit www.dcroadrunners.org or call the DC Roadrunners hotline at 703-241-0395.

Academy Stadium Theatres

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Center Court
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ALL SHOWS BEFORE 5 p.m.
Adults/Seniors: \$6.50
Children: \$6.00
ALL SHOWS BEFORE NOON ON SATURDAY \$5.00
ALL SHOWS AFTER 5 p.m.
Adults: \$8.50
Students/Military: \$7.50
Children: \$6.00
Seniors: \$6.50
R = ID Required
(!) = No pass, (!!) No pass weekend

Week of Feb. 13

FRI. - SUN.
Paul Blart Mall Cop, PG
11:20, 1:35, 3:45, 5:50, 7:50, 10:15
Taken, PG-13
11:20, 1:35, 3:45, 5:50, 7:50, 10:15
Confessions of a Shopaholic, PG (!)
11, 1:25, 4:30, 7, 10
Friday the 13th, R (!)
11:10, 1:30, 4:30, 7, 10
Push, PG-13 (!)
11:30, 2:25, 5:10, 8, 10:40
The International, R (!)
11:30, 2:25, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30
Coraline, PG (!)
11, 1:25, 4, 6:45, 9:30
Slumdog Millionaire, R
11:30, 2:25, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30

MON.
Paul Blart Mall Cop, PG
11:20, 1:35, 3:45, 5:50, 7:50
Taken, PG-13
11:20, 1:35, 3:45, 5:50, 7:50
Confessions of a Shopaholic, PG (!)
11, 1:25, 4:30, 7
Friday the 13th, R (!)
11:10, 1:30, 4:30, 7
Push, PG-13
11:30, 2:25, 5:10, 8
The International, R (!)
11:30, 2:25, 5:10, 7:50
Coraline, PG
11, 1:25, 4, 6:45
Slumdog Millionaire, R
11:30, 2:25, 5:10, 7:50

TUES. - THUR.
(All shows \$5 on Tuesdays except Paul Blart and International)
Paul Blart Mall Cop, PG
1, 3, 5:15, 7:30
Taken, PG-13
1, 3, 5:15, 7:30
Confessions of a Shopaholic, PG (!)
1:20, 4:20, 7:20
Friday the 13th, R (!)
1:30, 4:30, 7:30
Push, PG-13
1:10, 4:10, 7
The International, R (!)
1:10, 4:10, 7
Coraline, PG
1:20, 4:20, 7:20
Slumdog Millionaire, R
1:10, 4:10, 7

GREENBELT BASEBALL

Registration for New Players
Greenbelt Youth Center
Springhill Lake Rec Center
Saturdays, Feb. 14, 21 and 28
10 a.m. to noon



T-Ball

(5-6 year olds)



Coach-Pitch / Machine-Pitch

(7-8 year olds)



Major League Players

Born 8/1/95 - 7/31/03

Fees: Resident \$40.00, Sibling \$30.00
Non-Resident \$60.00 Sibling \$30.00
T-Ball \$40.00 per player
Copy of birth certificate is required

VOLUNTEER COACHES NEEDED

Sat., March 7 from 10 a.m. to noon
Draft for major league players
At McDonald Field, 7 Ct. Southway
For info: call Greg Fisanich 301-441-4647





Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt Democratic Club Meeting

Friday, February 20, 2009 at 7:30 PM
Greenbriar Community Center Terrace Room, 7600 Hanover Parkway, Greenbelt, MD

In celebration of Valentine's Day, we will be honoring our "sweethearts" for 2009:
Luisa Robles, Greenbelt Recycling Coordinator; and
Karen Donovan, kindergarten teacher and
Special Olympics swim coach.

For information please call 301.386.0762 or
visit <http://roosevelt.pgdems.com>

Please bring a snack or dessert to share



FORUM continued from page 1

director of community development, which is responsible for code enforcement, noted that buildings in Sections 8 and 9, the last sections of the project to have been built, did have washers and dryers in each unit.

He also told council that installing exterior units for air conditioning in a trial 28-unit building had created problems. The units had been located on balconies and condensation water was dripping off. A meeting is scheduled for the following week, he said, to deal with this issue.

Recycling

Councilmember Konrad Herling noted that one apartment project in Greenbelt was undertaking the separate collection of recyclables. He urged Empirian Village to do the same. Thames agreed to study the matter.

Herling also was concerned about the need to improve lighting. Allen responded that he has been given a list of locations where insufficient lighting is an issue. He is first working on getting existing lighting in working order. Once that is done his staff will look for some of the dark spots and see what can be done to improve the situation. He hopes to have all lights in working order within 30 days.

Of concern to Councilmember Leta Mach were the existing windows that are energy inefficient. She also had a concern about child safety. There have been past incidents, she said, of children falling out of floor-level windows without safety guards. Thames said that every new resident is given the opportunity to request installation of window guards. Management is currently investigating window upgrades. She said that AIMCO had different plans from what her company now intends to do.

Councilmember Ed Putens urged management to look at window guards very carefully in considering window upgrades and that he was becoming inclined to support legislation to make such guards a code requirement.

Davis noted resident concerns with the darker colors being tried on repainted buildings. There is a feeling, she said, that the darker appearance makes the buildings less safe.

Davis also asked if there were plans to remodel kitchens and baths on vacated units. Thames said that was still under review. She referred to management doing "Beta testing" by trying out new things in a few buildings and seeing how they work and asking the user residents to give management feedback.

FiOS

A major change that has caused problems is the installation of Verizon FiOS in place of cable for television. Apparently in performing the work, installation crews created a number of holes into the buildings that have become avenues for insects and rodents to access apartments. Allen said that

exterminators were working on the problems but there was difficulty in finding the tiniest of holes still possible for insects to use.

He also said he had not personally seen the presence of mice or rats. One new tenant at the meeting was concerned because her complaint about a large hole had not been resolved after having been inspected three times

Sterling said that after an initial inspection of a complaint, a notice of violation was issued. If not corrected within seven days, the city can then issue a notice of a fine. If still not corrected, the city then has to take the property owner to court, which takes considerable time to accomplish.

(Sterling later said that of the list of over a thousand violations resulting from last spring's annual inspection, nearly all had been rectified, as stated by Thames. However, a new list resulting from tenants' complaints has been partially left uncorrected. Another annual inspection will occur this spring.)

Also there have been resident complaints about installers accessing their apartments. One resident complained that a FiOS installer entered his apartment

without knocking while he was there and then, after opening other apartment units in the building, left with the building unsecured. Allen said the crews start at the top units and work down and that this could have been an overzealous installer who got ahead of the crew.

Police

Davis commended Empirian Village for continuing the partnership with the city to provide supplemental funding to furnish added police service to the apartment project, a partnership first developed with AIMCO. Thames said that she thought the arrangement worked well.

Police Officer Jonathan Lowndes was introduced as being assigned to Empirian Village. He noted that he was not the only officer involved. He reported that all agreements between the apartment owners and the police that were in place with AIMCO were now in place with Empirian.

A resident at the meeting complained about the long time it took for police to come to her apartment after she reported a burglary and her dissatisfaction

See FORUM, page 5

Interfaith Service and Program on Gaza

On Sunday afternoon, February 22 from 2 to 4 p.m., Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist (UU) Church will have an interfaith service and program entitled "Gaza: In Search of Our Common Humanity." Sponsored by the DC area Sharing Jerusalem organization, the opening worship service will have Muslim, Jewish and Christian teachings led by representatives of those faiths. The program which follows will feature both Palestinian and Jewish speakers.

The purpose of the program is to help those attending better understand the historical context of Gaza, the recent outbreak of hostilities between Israel and Hamas, the fragile cease fire that exists in Gaza, what needs to change for both sides in the future as the struggle for peace continues,

what the American role has been in the past and what possibilities exist for future American involvement in the Israeli Palestinian conflict. There will be a question-and-answer period following the presentations.

Middle Eastern refreshments will be provided by the New Deal Café. Co-hosts of the event are the Social Action Committee of Paint Branch UU Church and the MD Chapter of the Network of Spiritual Progressives which meets at Paint Branch.

For more information about this Gaza program email Jim. vitarello@sharingjerusalem.org or call 202-234-5817.

Paint Branch UU Church is located at 3215 Powder Mill Road in Adelphi. For directions visit the website at www.pbuuc.org or call 301-937-3666.



Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church
40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt
Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors
www.greenbeltumc.org 301-474-9410
Rev. Fay Lundin, Pastor



Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 10:00am
Prayer Meeting Sun. 9:45 am



Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church
3215 Powder Mill Road, Beltsville/Adelphi
Phone: 301-937-3666 www.pbuuc.org
Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community



February 15, 10 a.m.
"It Just Doesn't Stop"

Scott McNeill, intern minister at Fairfax and Shantida, worship associate.
This week we grapple with a life that keeps rolling even as we beg for a pause.



Greenbelt Baptist Church
101 Greenhill Road
Greenbelt, MD 20770 – (301) 474-4212
www.greenbeltbaptist.org

Welcome!

Sunday	9:45 am	Sunday School
Sunday	11:00 am	Worship Service
Wednesday	7:00 pm	Prayer Meeting/Bible Study


ALL are Welcome!

"Helping People Connect with Christ and His Family Through Loving Service"



Greenbelt Community Church
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Hillside & Crescent Roads
Phone: 301-474-6171 mornings
www.greenbeltucc.org
Sunday Worship
10:15 a.m.
Daniel Hamlin, Pastor

"A church of the open mind, the warm heart, the aspiring soul, and the social vision..."




Bible Study & Worship

9:30 "Good Morning!!" Coffee and Snacks
10:00 a.m. Bible Study 11:00 a.m. Worship

Greenbelt Youth Center 99 Centerway
(Behind the Community Center)


We want you to be a part of our celebration and worship!
301-474-4499

...living life together



**"Love is heaven's kindly light,
the Holy Spirit's eternal breath
that vivifieth the human soul."**
(Abdu'l-Bahá)

Greenbelt Bahá'í Community
1-800-22-UNITE 301-345-2918
Greenbelt.Bahai.Info@gmail.com www.bahai.us



ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH
135 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
301-474-4322

Mass Schedule:
Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 a.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m.
Daily Mass: 7:15 a.m.
Sacrament of Penance: Saturday 3:45-4:45 p.m.
Pastor: Rev. Walter J. Tappe
Pastoral Associate: Rev. R. Scott Hurd



HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH
6905 Greenbelt Road • 301-345-5111

Sunday 8:15 am	Worship Service
9:15 am	Sunday School/Bible Study
10:30 am	Worship Service



Fax 301-220-0694 • E-mail myholycross@verizon.net




**Congregation
Mishkan Torah**
10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770 301-474-4223

*An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian
synagogue that respects tradition and becomes your
extended family in the 21st century.*

Shabbat services: Friday evening at 8:00 PM, except 1st Friday of the month, i.e. family service at 7:30 PM. Saturday morning services at 9:30 AM.
Educational programs for children K-12 and for adults.
Combined innovative full family educational program for parents and children.
Conversion classes. Concert choir. Social Action program.
Opportunity for leadership development.
Moderate, flexible dues. High holiday seating for visitors.
Sisterhood. Men's Club. Other Social Activities.
Interfaith families are welcome.

*Historic synagogue dually affiliated with United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism
and the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation*



**Catholic
Community
of Greenbelt
MASS**

Sundays 10 A.M.
Municipal Building

FORUM

continued from page 4

with how police handled the matter. Davis, who discouraged discussion of individual matters at the meeting, urged the resident to speak to City Manager Michael McLaughlin.

Davis raised the issue of tenant information. Management is now putting out a two-page newsletter. Davis asked if city information could be included and Thames concurred. Other information channels discussed were the use of emails and a property website. Herling suggested Empirian’s participation in a Welcome Wagon program proposed by the Community Relations Advisory Board. The use of the News Review was also discussed. Responding to an inquiry by Davis, residents from different areas of Empirian Village indicated that the paper was being delivered to their apartment lobbies.

Responding to another question, Thames said that rentals now ranged from \$900 to \$1,600 a month. She said that the turnover rate has been about 50 percent a year but the current economic condition may be causing this to change to a slower rate.

Tenants
When given an opportunity to speak, residents raised a number of issues. With such a large base of customers on site, the company should do more polling of tenants as to what they think about improvement proposals. Others objected to raising the rent if a tenant chooses to go on a month-to-month basis instead of renewing a lease.

Thames urged council and residents to have some patience. They have a huge undertaking to perform, she said. They have to work with the county fire marshal and other agencies as well. Their financing is tied to getting some of the approvals they need from the county.

“Absolutely Empirian Village will be a good citizen to our community. We do it elsewhere. But it will take time to get up to speed. We are aware of your wishes. While we cannot make commitments now, that doesn’t mean we won’t want to do it,” she said.

Che Sayles, President of the Greenbelt West Residents Association composed of Empirian Village residents, thanked council for their interest. He noted that when tenants are responsible for paying rent, they are not able to take under advisement matters which concern them. He urged management not to think in terms of legal issues but instead to think of the people and families involved.

Brian Gibbons, a resident who is also a member of the city’s Advisory Planning Board, urged tenants to become more involved with the city by volunteering for city boards. He noted that at present only two other Empirian Village residents served on boards.

Holy Cross Thrift Store

Every Thursday 10 – 4 p.m.
1st Saturday of the month
10 – 2 p.m.
Good, clean clothes for women,
men and children!
Shoes, jewelry, books, etc.

6905 Greenbelt Road
Greenbelt, Md. **301-345-5111**

American Legion Upcoming Events

Looking for someplace to take someone special on Valentine’s Day? Look no farther than the Greenbelt American Legion. The Paulverizers will be playing their kickin’ brand of smokin’ blues on Saturday, February 14 starting at 9 p.m. Everyone is welcome and there is no cover charge. Those who want to eat dinner would do best to plan to be there before 7:30. The band will kick off at 9 p.m. but there will be a DJ during dinner.

Member Meetings
The Sons of the American Legion Squadron 136 membership

meeting will be held Tuesday, February 17 at 7 p.m.

There will be a Greenbelt Post #136 general membership meeting on Thursday, February 18 at 7 p.m. All veterans and members are welcome. The Unit 136 Ladies Auxiliary meeting is also on Thursday, February 18 at 7 p.m. A free meal for members starts before the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Greenbelt Post 136 is located at 6900 Greenbelt Road. For more information visit the website at www.greenbeltmdpost136.org or call 301 345-0136.

Aviation Film Marks Black History Month

The College Park Aviation Museum will celebrate Black History Month with two showings of “The Tuskegee Airmen,” a PBS documentary. It will be

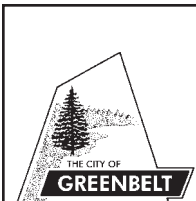
shown on Sunday, February 15 at 1 p.m. and on Thursday, February 19 at 3 p.m. The film is free with regular museum admission charge.

St. George’s Church is sponsoring its annual

Mardi Gras

February 21 from 6:00-10:00 pm.
\$25 for advance tickets; \$30 at the door; 10 and under free.
The celebration will include dinner, silent auction, costume judging and dancing. Childcare will be available for this event.

St. George’s is located at 7010 Glenn Dale Road, Glenn Dale, Md. 20769.
Contact number for information: 301 262-3285.



City Information

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

City Offices will be closed on Monday, February 16th, in observance of Presidents’ Day.

The Greenbelt Connection will not be operating.

REFUSE/RECYCLING SCHEDULE

Week of February 16th

Monday Route – Collected Tuesday
Tuesday Route – Collected Wednesday
Wednesday Route – Collected Thursday
Thursday Route – Collected Friday

There will be no appliance or yard waste collections on Friday, February 20th.

VACANCIES ON BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Volunteer to serve on City Council Advisory Groups.

Vacancies exist on the:

Green Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability (formerly REAC), Youth Advisory Committee, Senior Citizen Advisory Committee, Forest Preserve Advisory Board, and Advisory Planning Board.

For more info call 301-474-8000.

Registration for Spring & Summer Camps

Spring Camp, Circus Spring Camp Express, Kinder Camp, Camp Pine Tree, Creative Kids Camp, Circus Camp, Camp Encore, and Camp Dance are among the day camp choices the Greenbelt Recreation Department plans to offer this upcoming Spring and Summer.

These camps provide a wide range of aquatic, athletic, and artistic choices for kids ages 3 to 15. Camp registration began on January 12 for Greenbelt Residents and January 26 for Non-Residents.

The Camp Brochure can be downloaded at http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/recreation/camps_2009.pdf

Call the Recreation Business Office at 301-397-2200 for more information.

Make art for your community, and for yourself

Cast Glass Tiles Workshop

Saturday, Feb 21, 10:00am-1:00pm

Don’t miss this opportunity to make some art for the community! Learn a new creative skill, and become a part of a public art project in Greenbelt! A great introduction to the dry plaster relief casting method developed by the Washington Glass School. Use recycled glass to create original art tiles. Each person will create three unique tiles - one to keep, and two to contribute to a Greenbelt public art project! (ages 13-adult). Course #153209-1. \$40 Greenbelt resident, \$50 non-resident

Held at the Washington Glass School
(3700 Otis St., Mt. Rainier, MD)

Register now by calling 301-397-2208, or visit the Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770,
9am-4:30pm, M-F

Registration forms available online at www.greenbeltmd.gov/recreation/registration_info.pdf

GREENBELT MUNICIPAL /PUBLIC ACCESS

NOW ON COMCAST 71 & VERIZON 21

MUNICIPAL ACCESS: 301-474-8000: Tuesday and Thursday, February 17 & 19: 6pm “Ask the Expert,” 7pm “Public Hearing on Voting Reform held 2/11,” 9pm “John Luskys”

PUBLIC ACCESS (GATE): 301-507-6581: Wednesday and Friday, February 18 & 20: 7pm “Death and the Maiden,” 8pm: “The Pulverizers”

MEETINGS FOR FEBRUARY 16-20

Wednesday, February 18 at 7:30pm, ADVISORY PLANNING BOARD MEETING at the Greenbelt Community Center, Rm 114. On the Agenda: Discussion of the Development of a City-wide Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan.

Wednesday, February 18 at 7:30pm, RECREATION AND PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING, at the Greenbelt Community Center.

Wednesday, February 18 at 8:00pm, CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION w/ GATE at GATE Studios-Greenbelt Community Center.

This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call the number listed below, or contact the City Clerk at 301-474-8000 or cmurray@greenbeltmd.gov.

GREENBELT RECREATION DEPARTMENT and GREENBELT ARTS CENTER present

SIXTEEN TALENTED TEENAGERS

IN THE GREENBELT YOUTH MUSICAL 2009

HOMEWARD BOUND

by Christopher Cherry
based on The Odyssey by Homer

**February 13, 14, 15, 20, 21 at 7:00 pm
and February 21 at 2:00 pm**

Greenbelt Arts Center • 123 Centerway

Tickets \$6

Charge advance tickets by phone @ 301-397-2208

Purchase advance tickets in person:


Greenbelt Community Center • 15 Crescent Road

Monday-Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

GREENBELT ANIMAL SHELTER

Greenbelt Pets of the Month


CONGRATULATIONS TO: Bert and Ernie, Princess, Tarzan and PeeWee Jr. on their adoptions. We wish them much happiness in their new homes.



Marco: A 4 month old male blue tick coonhound. Very gentle and loving.



Kimmie: Friendly, but shy. Easily gentled, especially if bribed with food and treats! Young adult spayed, tiger striped female cat. Has been patiently waiting for a home for 2 years.



Victoria: A very playful 2 year old female black and white cat.

For more information on any of the other wonderful animals at the Greenbelt Animal Shelter, call 301.474.6124.

The Greenbelt Animal Shelter gladly accepts donations of pet supplies. Currently there is a great need for self-clumping cat litter.

MARYLAND TAX RETURN

If you live within the corporate boundaries of the City of Greenbelt, make sure to write or enter “Greenbelt” on your Maryland State Tax form under “City, town or taxing area” so that your taxes can best serve your community!

HEARING continued from page 1

Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) last February raised significant legal issues for the city as to whether minority populations in the city were being deprived of their rights, whether those charges were legitimate and whether candidates preferred by African American voters were prevented from success due to voting by primarily white voters. The main issue was whether the Greenbelt voting system diluted the voting power of African Americans and what alternatives are available.

All these issues require the city to invoke attorney-client privilege to shield council discussions from discovery by potential litigants as they grapple with the issues and consider alternatives. Sylvestri indicated that the initial analysis could answer the question, Is the city in violation?, with a response of no. But there still may be something wrong with the Greenbelt voting system.

Although there appears to be no evidence that the preference of African American voters has been diluted, Silvestri said, the turnout in precincts with African American voters shows marked differences with the higher turnouts in precincts with white majorities.

Sylvestri noted that the proposed action by the city council to move the city's election date to even years at the same time as state and federal elections is the simplest way to offset the (low) turnouts. He added that this remedy can be supplemented

with other measures, such as early voting, relaxed rules for absentee voting and more effective communications to the voters on election procedures.

He reiterated council's determination that considering a change to a district form of election in Greenbelt would represent a fundamentally different way for Greenbelt residents to choose their political leaders. He also indicated that such a change would not usually be made unless there is evidence of discrimination.

Regarding other systems suggested during the forums held during 2008, Sylvestri indicated that research has shown that it is far easier to affect turnout than to go with other forms of preferential voting schemes. Such systems are complex, he said, and could result in lower turnout for all of Greenbelt precincts.

Manzi's View

Sylvestri's remarks were followed by brief comments by City Solicitor Manzi in which he gave a condensed summary of the road council has taken on this issue since last February. He noted that council took the NAACP/ACLU letter very seriously; he advised them to obtain expert advice on the issue and that they had undertaken reasoned consideration.

He noted that the testimony at the three forums held last year showed predominantly that citizens did not want change in their voting system.

Manzi then outlined the next steps, including two more hearings, council review of the tes-

timony and any comments received, development of proposed charter amendments needed to modify Greenbelt voting procedures and the possibility of voter challenges to the proposed charter amendments.

In addition to the 12 citizens signed up to testify at the hearing, Davis noted that council had received a letter via email from the Greenbelt Neighbors Alliance (GNA), an organization that had conducted informal polling at Greenbelt voting precincts during the November 2009 presidential elections and had communicated results of their polling to the city council.

In the GNA letter of February 6, 2009, there was support for the recommendations contained in the council statement of January 26, 2009, specifically that the dates for the Greenbelt City Council elections be changed to even years to coincide with the county, state and federal elections and to implement voter outreach beyond those efforts contained in the council statement.

The letter notes that the GNA representatives disagree among themselves as to whether the measures proposed by council in their statement go far enough. Some feel that some form of district voting system or other methods of preferential voting should be considered. The GNA believes that such differences are reflected in the community as a whole.

GNA asks that council be clear on what it is trying to achieve beyond avoidance of a lawsuit. They encourage council to publicly establish how success will

be measured and to consider other approaches to engage residents in reflection and community decision-making on critical issues such as governance.

Public View

The tenor of the public testimony was somewhat different from comments made at last year's forums. Public comments then were mainly directed at the NAACP, ACLU and FairVote representatives offering suggestions for changes to the Greenbelt electoral process.

At the public hearing on Saturday, discussion seemed more like a conversation among Greenbelters and indeed reflected different opinions among Greenbelt citizens as characterized by the GNA letter. Most speakers agreed with council's approach to increase voter outreach efforts and information provided to Greenbelt voters.

Speakers suggested other methods to communicate and inform Greenbelt residents of the role of the city government and how they can and should participate. Few agreed that structural changes such as voting by district or the use of preferential voting were necessary.

Some speakers cautioned council on the possibility of unintended consequences that could accompany a change from the traditional odd-year elections of the Greenbelt City Council to even-year elections held at the same time as county, state and federal elections. They suggested that such a move could have a bad influence on the Greenbelt municipal elections in terms of campaign financing, favoring in-

cumbency, confusion among voters concerning the relationships between city council candidates and the partisan county, state and federal candidates and the possibility that voters would take a pass on voting a municipal ballot after working through a very long ballot for county, state and federal candidates and ballot questions.

In response to a question from the first speaker as to the possibility of a non-binding referendum on the electoral reform issue, Sylvestri indicated that it would not help in the legal sense and could possibly be detrimental if a vote in a non-binding referendum reinforced the low turnout features that were shown in the voter analysis. Another speaker's take on the voter turnout analysis was the turnout percentages shown for precinct 13 (12-17.1 percent), which were actually better than some percentage turnouts for district elections in municipalities that use that system.

In response to the refrain made by the last speaker regarding the lack of information on the part of Greenbelt residents on the role of the city government, Sylvestri reiterated that that finding is "concerning" and that there has to be greater efforts in outreach, education and making voting more convenient for voters.

Other Hearings

A second public hearing was scheduled for Wednesday, February 11 at Greenbriar Community Terrace Room at 7600 Hanover Parkway. The third public hearing will be held on Wednesday, February 25 at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center at 6101 Cherrywood Lane.

Some People Don't Smile in Pictures . . .

Ask yourself if any of these areas may be affecting the beauty of your smile:



- The color or shape of your teeth
- Spaces or missing teeth
- Noticeable cavities or old dental work
- Uneven or unhealthy gums

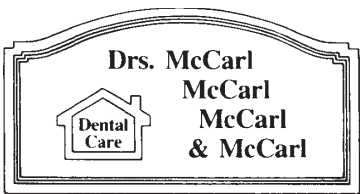
If so, come into the offices of the McCarl Dental Group for a complete and comprehensive evaluation.

Nicole Burgess of Severna Park had severely discolored teeth from a very early age. Throughout her life, Nicole had been self-conscious of her smile. In just three short weeks, the McCarl Dental Group gave Nicole a beautiful smile and a new start in life! Call the McCarl Dental Group to see if a smile makeover could change *your* life.



It's never too late to give yourself a beautiful smile. For over three generations the McCarl family has provided a full range of dental services to Greenbelt and the surrounding communities. In the past, cosmetic dentistry was only for the wealthy. Today, however, cosmetic dentistry is affordable and available to everyone. Give someone you love the gift of a smile!

Call us today for an appointment!
301-474-4144



Polishing and Cleaning

\$45⁰⁰

After Complimentary Initial Dental Exam (Value up to \$192) Includes necessary X-rays on day of examination. New patients only. Expires: 2/28/09

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Special Only

\$200⁰⁰

Reg. \$500.00 Expires: 2/28/09

Office Hours:
Monday 8-5
Tuesday 9-8:30
Wednesday 9-8
Thursday 8-4
Friday 8-3
Saturday 8-12

McCarl Dental Group
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28 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770-0717

GREENBELT CONSUMER

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121 CENTERWAY, ROOSEVELT CENTER

Farm Fresh Produce		
Red Ripe Grape Tomatoes pint	BUY ONE GET ONE FREE	Crisp U.S. Fancy Apples Braeburn/Delicious/Jonagold 99¢ lb.
Fresh Crisp Cut & Peeled Baby Carrots 1 lb. pack	BUY ONE GET ONE FREE	Sweet Ripe Florida Strawberries 1 lb. pack \$2.99
Grade A Idaho Baker Potatoes 5 lb. bag	BUY ONE GET ONE FREE	Special 3-Day ONLY Citrus Case Sale See circular for details

Fresh Quality Meats			
Fresh Shurfine Homestyle Roasting Chicken 79¢ lb.	Fresh Value Pack Beef Porterhouse or T-Bone Steaks \$5.99 lb.	Shurfine Smoked Ham Shank Portions 99¢ lb.	Fresh Natural Boneless Center Cut Pork Roast \$2.49 lb.
Fresh Choice Beef Boneless Botton Round Roasts \$3.49 lb.	Fresh Natural Boneless Center Cut Pork Chops \$2.49 lb.	Fresh 93% Super Lean Ground Beef \$2.99 lb.	Bar-S Jumbo Meat Franks 1 lb. pack \$1.29 lb.

Dairy		Deli	Frozen	
Dannon Assorted Yogurt 6 oz. BUY ONE GET ONE FREE	Kraft American Cheese Singles Yellow/White 16 oz. BUY ONE GET ONE FREE	Hatfield Gold Ribbon Tavern Ham \$3⁹⁹ _{lb.}	Marie Callender's or Healthy Choice Entrees Select Varieties 12-21 oz. \$2⁵⁰	Shurfine Assorted Vegetables 16 oz. \$1⁰⁰
Kraft Natural Chunk Cheese Assorted 6-8 oz. \$2⁶⁹	Pillsbury Rolled Pie Crust 15 oz. \$2⁵⁰	Deli Gourmet Lebanon Bologna \$4⁹⁹ _{lb.}	Breyer's Ice Cream Assorted 1.5 qt. \$3⁰⁰	Ellio's Assorted Pizza 17-21 oz. 3/\$8⁰⁰
Health & Beauty	Seafood	Deli Gourmet Mozzarella or Provolone Cheese \$4⁹⁹ _{lb.}	Natural & Gourmet	Bakery
Colgate Tooth Paste Select Varieties 6-8.5 oz. \$1⁵⁰	Orion Cooked/Peeled Deveined Extra Large Shrimp \$5⁹⁹ _{lb.}		Termati Flavored Couscous Assorted 31.7 oz. \$5⁹⁹	Fresh Store Baked Original Italian Bread loaf \$1²⁹
Nature Made Vitamins or Supplements Assorted 24-130 Ct. BUY ONE GET ONE FREE	Seabest Frozen Cod Fillets \$4⁹⁹ _{lb.}		Dare Gourmet Water Crackers Assorted 4.4 oz. \$2⁵⁰	Fresh Store Baked Apple Pie Original/No Sugar 8 inch \$3⁹⁹

Grocery Bargains			
Progresso Classic Soups Select Varieties 18-19 oz. BUY ONE GET ONE FREE	Betty Crocker Meal Helpers Hamburger/Tuna/Chicken 5-9 oz. BUY ONE GET ONE FREE	Mott's Original Apple Juice 64 oz. BUY ONE GET ONE FREE	Eight O'Clock Assorted Coffee Ground/Whole Bean 11-12 oz. BUY ONE GET ONE FREE
Shurfine Granulated Sugar 5 lb. \$2.49	Green Giant Canned Vegetables Select Varieties 11-15 oz. 75¢	Star Kist Chunk Light Tuna 5 oz. \$1.00	Mott's Apple Sauce Assorted 46-48 oz. \$1.50
		Arm & Hammer 2X Liquid Laundry Detergent 50 oz. BUY ONE GET ONE FREE	
		General Mills Original Cheerios 14 oz. \$2.50	

Professional Pharmacy

- We Honor Most Prescription Plans
- Medicare Billing
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- Free Home Delivery of Prescriptions Monday–Wednesday–Friday
- Free Blood Pressure Tester
- Durable Medical Equipment Sales & Rental

Coors Beer \$9.49 12 pk.–12 oz. cans

Steeple Jack Wines \$6.69 750 ML.

Beer & Wine

Heineken Beer \$7.29 6 pk.–12 oz. bottles

Santa Carolina Vistania Wines \$7.69 1.5 Liter

Icehouse Beer \$3.59 6 pk.– 12 oz. cans

Tosti Asti Spumante \$9.99 750 ML.

Don't miss all of CO-OP's other great specials featured in our 6-page full color ad flier here in your News Review And now you can find our entire weekly ad online at www.greenbelt.coop Check it out!

Prices Effective: FEBRUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	16	17	18	19	20	21
22						

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PHARMACY

121 CENTERWAY–ROOSEVELT CENTER GREENBELT, MARYLAND

Visit us online at www.greenbelt.coop

SUPERMARKET

Monday thru Saturday 9 a.m. until 9 p.m.
Sunday 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. 301-474-0522

PHARMACY

Monday thru Friday 9 a.m. until 7 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. 301-474-4400
Closed Sunday

Police Blotter

Based on information released by the Greenbelt Police Department, <http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/police/index.htm>, link in left frame to "Weekly Report" or http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/police/weekly_report.pdf.
Dates and times are those when police were first contacted about incidents.

Assault
February 4, 5:25 p.m., Greenbelt Youth Center, a person attempted to enter the center without a recreation card. Upon being denied entry he spat in the face of the clerk. He then fled the area in a vehicle described as a dark color Dodge Stratus. The suspect is described as a black male, 5'10" with a heavy build, black hair and brown eyes and a scar on his left cheek, wearing a black skull cap and dark jeans.

Drug Arrests
February 1, 12:56 a.m., Greenway Center, a resident man was arrested and charged with possession of paraphernalia and driving while suspended. Another resident man, two resident youths and a nonresident youth were charged with possession of paraphernalia. The adults were released on citation pending trial. The youths were released to a parent pending action by the juvenile justice system.

February 3, 4:06 p.m., 6100 block Breezewood Court, a resident youth was arrested for possession of marijuana and two counts of possession of paraphernalia. The youth was released to a parent pending action by the juvenile justice system.

Disorderly Conduct
February 4, 11:36 p.m., T.G.I. Friday's Restaurant, a nonresident man was arrested for disorderly conduct and was released on citation pending trial.

Trespass
February 2, 4:34 p.m., 9000 block Breezewood Terrace a nonresident man was arrested for trespass and released on citation pending trial.

Open Alcohol
January 31, 4:57 p.m., Greenway Center, a resident woman was arrested for open alcohol and released on citation pending trial.

Vandalism
January 30, 11:09 a.m., 6100 block Springhill Terrace, unknown person(s) used unknown means to break out the bedroom window of a residence.

February 4, 7:36 p.m., 6100 block Breezewood Court, unknown person(s) used unknown means to break out the window of a residence.

February 5, 3 p.m., 6100 block Breezewood Court, unknown person(s) used unknown means to break out the sliding glass door of a residence.

February 5, 3:50 p.m., 6100 block Springhill Terrace, unknown person(s) used unknown means to break out the bedroom window of a residence.

Burglary
February 2, 1:22 p.m., 6000 block Springhill Drive, unknown person(s) entered a vacant apartment and vandalized the interior.

Vehicle Crimes
January 30, Southway and Route 295, a nonresident man was arrested for having a stolen registration sticker. He was released on citation pending trial.

January 31, 9000 block Breezewood Terrace, a resident youth took the family vehicle, a 2004 Mercury Mountaineer, and returned it later in the day. The youth was released pending action by the juvenile justice system.

Greenbelt police recovered four vehicles. No arrests were made.

Theft from vehicles was reported in the following areas: 5700 block Cherrywood Lane (cell phone), Beltway Plaza (rear tag), 6200 block Springhill Drive (two incidents – CD player and CDs), 7800 block Mandan Road (television), 9100 block Springhill Lane (CD/DVD player) and 7800 block Cloister Place (airbags).

One vehicle was vandalized (broken rear window) in the 6200 block Springhill Court.

Counts Suggest Irruptions for Many Birds

by Don Comis

A bit of the Northland has come to our area again. First coyotes and now white-winged crossbills, pine siskins and maybe snowy owls and boreal owls.

The National Audubon Society advises Marylanders to be on the lookout this winter for crossbills, pine siskins, snowy owls and boreal owls, because the birds are all experiencing irruptions. Irruptions are late summer, autumn and winter southward migrations to areas out of an animal's normal range, usually because of food shortages. In the case of the crossbills and pine siskins, the spruce cone crops are generally low in most of Canada, so they've come down here to eat. This happens periodically with bird species, particularly these two.

I know the crossbills are here because I saw four females and one male eating fallen cones from an Eastern Hemlock tree near the parking lot of the National Plant Materials Center, off Beaver Dam Road near Soil Conservation Road.

Michele Touchet, Lutz Rastaetter and I were teamed up as an all-Greenbelt team for the mid-winter bird count at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) on Sunday, February 1. Another Greenbelter Michel Cavigelli also participated.

The BARC count leader Ed Clark had alerted us to look for crossbills and pine siskins at a stand of hemlock trees across from the Plant Materials Center. We stumbled into the crossbills on the ground on the way to our car. As for the pine siskins, volunteers for

the area's Christmas Bird Count, on December 21, 2008, counted 29 of them.

There have already been several reports of snowy owls in Maryland and the movement of boreal owls suggests they could be seen in Maryland for the first time this winter.

The Great Backyard Bird Count (see www.birdcount.org) is February 13 through 16, giving Greenbelters a chance to look for crossbills and pine siskins as well as our more usual birds.

All they have to do is check their backyard or anywhere else in Greenbelt for at least 15 minutes on one or more of those days. In the backyard one may see these birds with goldfinches on thistle feeders.

Stands of conifers – spruce, firs, white pine, and hemlock – are other good places to look. Keep an eye out for pieces of cones falling to the ground as crossbills eat the cone seeds from high in the trees, as well as on the ground.

Also keep an ear out for the sound of them prying open cones and munching on seeds. Crossbills, especially the females, look like American goldfinches in their off-season plumage – at least their black wings with white wing bars give them a similar look. They also have the small finch beak but their bills are curved and overlap, to help them open pine cones to get at the seed with their tongues.

The male has a lot of red and will get redder as winter progresses.

Pine siskins look like sparrows, except for the identifying yellow patches in the wings and tail and

could be mistaken for goldfinches.

Photos of crossbills, pine siskins and other birds can be seen in bird identification guides at <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/AboutBirds/BirdGuide/> and the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge Center's <http://www.mbr-pwrc.usgs.gov/Infocenter/infocenter.html>.

Judging by the feeders I've established and monitored as part of another citizen science project, Cornell University's feeder watch program (feederwatch.org), one is almost certain to see these "usual" birds, listed in order of the frequency of their visits to one's feeders, from most frequent to least frequent: house sparrows, juncos, mourning doves, blue jays, white-throated sparrows, cardinals, house finches, Carolina chickadees, downy woodpeckers, Carolina wrens, starlings, goldfinches, white-breasted nuthatches, red-bellied woodpeckers, tufted titmice, brown-headed cowbirds, mockingbirds, red-winged blackbirds and grackles.

During last year's Backyard Bird Count, Greenbelters counted 27 species, which included all the species listed above except for red-bellied woodpeckers and mockingbirds. It also included mallards, gulls, Canada Geese, bald eagles, barred owls, pileated woodpeckers, crows, robins, Cooper's hawks and peregrine falcons.

The next count after the Great Backyard Bird Count is the International Migratory Bird Day count on May 9. To join in the fun on the May count, just send an email to stillcreekwatershed@juno.com or Edward.Clark@ars.usda.gov.

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*Office and Maintenance Dept. are Closed every other Friday (beginning Feb. 6th)
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This is a new Compressed Work Week Schedule created to increase time and energy efficiency for both GHI members & employees.

Questions can be directed to:
Brenda Lewis, Director of Human Resources
301-474-4161, extension 152

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Congratulations to:

- Adrianna Terrell, a Japanese major at the University of Findlay in Findlay, Ohio, who was awarded a president’s scholarship for the 2008-09 academic year.
- ERHS student Jonece Layne, who was among county school system staff and students recognized at a reception in Annapolis yesterday evening for their contributions and leadership to Gifted and Talented (TAG) Education in Maryland schools. This year’s theme is “invest in Gifted Education; Gifted Students Give Back.”

There was much excitement at Greenbelt Elementary School last Friday as County Councilmember Ingrid Turner arrived to present a council proclamation to Positive Promotions’ Teacher of the Year, sixth grade teacher Beth Novick. The council proclamation also recognizes Novick’s work in the Talented and Gifted Program, her service as PTA faculty liaison and co-chair of the school’s annual multi-cultural dinner. Novick will also be featured in the Positive Promotions Magazine.

We wish a happy Valentine’s Day to all!

To send information for “Our Neighbors” email us at newsreview@greenbelt.com or leave a message at 301-474-6892.

– Kathleen McFarland



County Councilmember Ingrid Turner presents a council proclamation to Greenbelt Elementary School teacher Beth Novick.

Reel and Meal at the New Deal Café

The next Reel and Meal film at the New Deal Café will be “Pip & Zastrow: An American Friendship,” which will be shown on Monday, February 16 at 7 p.m.

Before the film there will be an optional vegan buffet meal available for purchase at 6:30 p.m.

This award-winning film tells the true story of two men who cross racial boundaries during segregation in the 1940s and form a life-long friendship that takes extraordinary turns. With humor, compassion and heartbreak, Pip and Zastrow navigate through 60 years against the backdrop of the civil rights movement and a country that has yet to overcome deep-seated racism and social inequity. Zastrow Simms will be there to lead the discussion after the movie. He will be accom-

panied by the film’s director and producer, Victoria Bruce.

The Reel and Meal at the New Deal is a monthly film series that explores environmental and social issues and is sponsored by nine Greenbelt organizations interested in preserving the environment.

There is no charge for admission. Email sr.kane@verizon.net for more information about the event.

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All proceeds from the sale of the book benefit the Washington Humane Society.

For more information call Cam MacQueen at 301-345-6293.

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Freshly painted throughout with new flat-top stove and modern refrigerator. Fiberglass tub surround. Porch addition overlooks yard. \$172,000

Brick Townhome

Large 11' x 17' master bedroom, 2nd bedroom oak hardwood flooring & bath on top level. Garden space & patio - outdoor enjoyment! \$238,000

Clinton

4 br, 2 ba. Split foyer home located in Clinton Woods. Private Setting. Owners have found their home of choice and reduced price - \$299,900

REALTOR® Your Greenbelt Specialists

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LOVE

NOTES

My kids are so great and their mates are cool, too.
They enjoy life in everything they do!
My wonderful daughter Kristel and her husband Shawn,
You are like two peas in a pod.
I know your marriage will go on and on.
You deserve each other – because you are both odd. LOL
Billy, you and your friend are a lot of fun.
It’s important to spend time with a special one.
Live, Love, & Laugh! Dad

Roses are red, except sometimes they are pink or white,
and I saw a yellow one once,
but I didn’t like it much.
Love, Michael

I love you
Happy Valentine’s Day to: Leah
From: Dinah

Do you believe in chickens?
Me neither.
Love, Daddy

Dear L.B.B. – It took a long time & a lot of heartache to finally find you.
I feel so lucky & blessed to be with you.
I look forward to many happy days together.
Thanks for your unending patience & love.
Happy Valentine’s Day! I love you!

K. & T. – Happy Valentine’s Day!
We love you!
Thanks for sticking with us through thick & thin.
You are the best parents we could ever hope for.
Love, Mel, Zu,
Donna Claire, Baby & Alex

Mum & Dad – Everyday that goes by re-affirms how incredibly lucky I am to be your daughter. The love & care that you each show me is something that can never be matched.
I am grateful and utterly blessed.

P.Pie
You’re the bestis!
Love, B.Bob

“XOXOXO my Newfie – your Pointy man.”

Dearest Tati,
Of all the children in Old Greenbelt, you’re the sweetest granddaughter that could have been dealt!
Love, Grammie

Avis, I knew you were the one from the start.
You came along and stole my heart.
You’re feisty, funny, and full of life and soon we will be man and wife!
I love to come home to my sweet and enjoy the delicious meals you make to eat.
I hope you know from this poem You’ve made my house into our home!
Through our lives we will face many things and we will grow together in many ways.
I wanted you to have the most beautiful rings and remember every kiss (and sometimes more) begins with Kays.
Love, Tom



To JJ
Happy Valentine’s Day
and eleven-month B-day

Roses are red.
Violets are blue.
I love Kristen B
And young Allen B too.
Grandma

Love and respect to Sylvia J. Lewis on our 50th Valentine’s Day!
Robert J. Lewis

JC LANDSCAPING
Wishes all our Greenbelt clients Happy Valentine’s Day and Happy Gardening & Landscaping.
We’re loving what we do for you.
Thanks

Happy Valentine’s Day to Ellen and Bruce, Sandy and Tom and lots of love
from Mom

When Dinah went out to play today She found dandelions yellow and gay
And then when she came in tonight The dandelions had turned to white.
Happy Valentine’s Day to my dandelion hunter!
Love, Mommy

Sarah,
I really have the hunger.
I just wish I were a few years younger.
Good times happen by chance,
who knows, some day we may dance.
Happy Valentine’s, D

Happy Valentine’s Day, Elaine and thanks for 40 past.
Happy Valentine’s Day,
John Henry

Dear Bill, of all the things that ever happened to me,
You’re the best!
Happy Valentine’s Day!
Love, Shobha

Happy Valentine’s Day to all our wonderful Greenbelt friends.
from Bill and Shobha

I don’t say it enough
I do say it some
But here for all to see
I love you, Shobha. Bill

To: Jay
From: Bea
It doesn’t really matter wherever we roam,
as long as we’re together we’ll always be “at home.”

Janet, we thank you for making our lives happier, healthier, and our behavior better. Our moms and dads thank you and also for your friendship.
A happy, happy Valentine’s Day from our hearts to yours.
Hucklebear, Tchewba, Aurora, Bella, Zoe, Tonka, Leroy, Charlie, Reese, and their people.

To Our Clan of Texans
Wishing You the Best!
Though You Be Far Away
Be Our Valentines
Grandma Gee and Grandpa G.

To my Sweetie –
Looking forward to spending the week with you away from all the doctors and their tests. The mountains will be refreshing.
ML



Super Volunteer Clement Lau

Is a “Typical” Greenbelt Citizen

by Virginia Beauchamp

Greenbelt may not recognize itself in the title of an article that appeared in 2007 in Community Magazine, a publication sponsored by the Chinese Ministry of Civil Affairs – “The Past and Present of a Typical American Community: the City of Greenbelt, Maryland.” If there’s one word we would never use about ourselves as a community – nor would our fellow Americans – it would be “typical.” But let that pass!

The article’s co-author – long-time resident Clement Lau – says that was the editor’s word. And perhaps there’s nothing wrong with describing what we see as exemplary as merely everyday quality if you want to make a case for an American model to be distributed in China.

Lau, who grew up in Hong Kong, first moved with his family into an apartment in Springhill Lake when he became no longer eligible for student housing after graduating from the University of Maryland with a master’s degree in library science in 1990. Only later, after discovering the municipal swimming pool and enrolling his two children on the swim team, did Lau begin to focus on the larger community that is the city of Greenbelt.

One thing led to another and by 1995 he was a member of the city’s Advisory Committee on Education, then an officer of the

Greenbelt Internet Access cooperative, then an officer of the Aquatic Boosters Club. By 2002 Lau was a member of the city’s Park and Recreation Advisory Board and a year later the summer swim meet manager for the Greenbelt swim team. Now he’s a member of the Community Emergency Response Team.

He and his wife Jill had earlier bought a house in the Lakewood development behind the Baptist Church, where they have lived ever since. Both their children are graduates of Eleanor Roosevelt High School and Joseph, the younger, who was born in Prince George’s County, is now a student at the University of Maryland. Their daughter Malasia is currently a college student in Taiwan.

Library Volunteer

Since 1999 Lau has been assistant director for technical services and administration at the Law Library of the University of Baltimore, a field of service he began as a student assistant at the University of Maryland and before that in Taiwan.

So what is his new area of service as a volunteer in Greenbelt? Would anyone be surprised to find him helping out with the newly relocated Fred S. DeMarr Library of Prince George’s County History right here in the local branch of the county library? Every other


Saturday he sits behind the main desk welcoming an increasing number of visitors to the first-floor facility but also, when not otherwise occupied, sorting the contents of previously unopened boxes of books or papers that had been unexamined for years.

Duplicate books, he says, are set aside for sale but others, to be kept, need their Library of Congress call numbers affixed and suitable placement on the shelves. Papers, of course, need appropriate filing.

At other busman’s holiday times, Lau also volunteers at the media center at Eleanor Roosevelt High School.

But what is this Apple Tree Library Foundation in Sunnyvale, Cal., for which he has been an advisor since 2006? The title may disguise its true function but, for Lau, it pulls together his two areas of commitment – the enrichment of children’s lives and the building of libraries. This organization provides new English language books for children that are sent for distribution in China.

Volunteerism is not a Chinese tradition, Lau says; folks are too busy supporting the concerns and needs of their family members. He alone of his family settled in the United States where he learned this new way of living. Four brothers and two sisters, he says, remain in Hong Kong.



ATTENTION

GHI MEMBERS

You are invited to join an

ELECTRIC BUYING COOPERATIVE

Sponsored by GHI & The Baltimore-Washington Corridor Chamber of Commerce

An informational meeting will be held

Tuesday, March 3rd, 2009

7:30 p.m.

At the Greenbelt Community Center Multipurpose Room

Plan now to attend to find out how

You can participate

And save \$\$\$ on your electric bill.